

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, January 13. 17c8.

AT a Distance from you it is too easie to discern, Gentlemen, that you are unhappily divided among your selves, but till a Man comes among you, 'tis impossible to imagine, it should run up to the Heights we find it is: I have been a long while talking to you upon the Subject of falling out among our selves, I hope, no Body can be so unkind to think, I should mean, that Knaves of all Sorts or of all Parties should not be detested and prosecuted, and all along as I have gone on, I have endeavour'd to convince you, that I have no Aim that Way, and I shall farther convince you of it in the Process of these Papers.

There are several Sorts of Complaints now among us, I shall endeavour to search some of the Wounds, and if by laying them open a Cure may be wrought, perhaps I may not pass altogether for an ill Surgeon.

I am an Enemy to general Complaining, especially where it is made without Ground; but I agree, it may have its Uses to have the People speak freely their Grievances, for then they come to be known, and either the People may be satisfy'd of their Mistakes *if wrong*, or *if right* the Thing be redress'd.

Our present Uneasiness seems to lie upon three Heads.

1. Traytors among us who betray our Affairs to the Enemy.

2. Mismanagers in publick Employment.

3. Emissaries and private Tools employ'd to divide us, to misrepresent the Actions of one side, palliate and excuse one another; and in short to manage Parties among us, in order to amuse and impose upon the Nation, and keep open our unhappy Breaches.

To

To begin with the first of these, I cannot but take Notice how providentially the dark Methods of these Engines of Hell begin to come to Light; I never made any Doubt, but the *French* had their Emissaries among us, tho' I believe they have of late very much failed of that exact Intelligence they us'd to have, and perhaps some particular Demonstrations might be given of its being so, if it were useful to examine it; but upon the whole it cannot but be expected, and we ought to expect it, that if the Power of Money can obtain it, the *French*, who spare no Cost in such Cases, will not fail to have their Spyes and Emissaries in our very Cabinets, if possible, to get Intelligence of our Measures; while there are Traytors that will take Money, and Money ready to be given to Traytors, we shall be always liable to be so betray'd.

Nor can the best Government or the exactest Management in the World absolutely prevent this; any more than the Church of Christ can detect all the Hypocrites that shroud themselves under her Shadow; or the Wolves in Sheeps cloathing, that get within the sacred Fold; and of this the Secretary to the Duke of *Savoy's* Envoy is an Instance, for Discovery of whom the Reward of 200*l.* was offer'd by her Majesty. The Duke of *Savoy* has given so many Instances of his hearty Adherence to the Confederates, both in his suffering in the Cause, and his vigorous acting against even the several Branches of his own Family, that no Man can reasonably doubt him; His Envoy has given an evident Token of his Sincerity in laying Hands upon this Traytor himself, as the Proclamation particularly expresses; and yet even among these is found a Traytor, a *French* Emissary, whose Business is to discover the Measures of the Confederates to the *French*, like a *Judas* among the Twelve, in whom the Devil of *French* Money being once entred, Treachery has the Ascendant, and he has given himself up to them ever after.

And after all, as I have often said in like Cases, we are not to blame the *French* King for this, we ought to expect he has his Spyes among us, we ought to guard against them while concealed, and bestow their due

Reward the Gallows upon them, when discover'd; but as to the *French* there is no Cause to blame them; as the Customs of Nations now govern it is a fair Method, Monsieur *Chamillard* thows himself a faithful Minister of State, and a politick Agent, if possible, to place his Spyes not in your Secretary's Office only, but in the very Cabinet, in the Parliament, and in the Chief of all your Councils; 'tis his Business to inform himself, 'tis as fair for him to have his Spyes, as 'tis for you to hang them when discover'd: Therefore never let us spend our Fury on the *French* King or his Ministers of State, for attempting to debauch our Officers, and to insinuate themselves into our Affairs; we ought to do the same with them, and if we have not our Spyes and Instruments among them, it must be for one of these two Reasons, either that the *French* are more faithful to their Prince than we, which I doubt has too much Truth in it too; and I care not to enter into the Comparison, or that they give more Money for Intelligence than we can spare, or at least than we are willing to spare.

And what says our Complainers now, O we should give our under Officers such Salaries, as should set them above the Bribery or Allurements of Foreigners; this would have more of Argument in it, if it did not come from some of those very People, who have always been most forward to clamour at the exorbitant Salaries of Men in publick Employment; and therefore I rather note it to let the World see the Emptiness of our general Murmurs, than any Strength that I think is in the Argument, since we have found in these Days Men in the highest Posts, and with the greatest Encouragements for their Fidelity tainted with Bribes, and turn Traytors to their Country.

But now, O ye *High-Flyers* and Malecontents of any Sort, will you begin at this new Discovery of Traytors, and stick a Pin at the just Remark I am making upon them, you are now come, Blessed be GOD, to the Article of detecting Traytors, discovering Emissaries, and examining into the Betrayers of their Country; some are apprehended, perhaps they may have no Stomach

to the Gallows, may have no great Mind to be hang'd, and as they have proved Traytors to you for their foreign Friends, they may now betray those Friends, and turn Traytors for you— And when they have done, where do you think it will fall? will it fall among the *High* or *Low Flyers*, the *Tories* or the *Whigs*, the *Jacobite* or the *Williamite Dissenters*?—Upon this let the Character and Credit of Parties turn, and now we shall see who are Emisaries and who not; for if I am capable of judging any thing by the Interest, Temper and Completion of Parties, it can neither be in the Nature, Interest or Inclination of a *Whig* to betray his Cause to the *French*, or discover Secrets to that Party; there may be here and there a Rogue, who having been debauch'd by Bribes, or influenc'd by Persons, may betray his Party; but mark the Society, I warrant you, his Correspondents, his Abettors, his Accomplices are not *Whigs*—

And my Reason, I hope, will be allow'd to be good; there is an Alliance of Parties between the *French* Cause, and the *Jacobite*, or *High-Flyer*; they have a Coherence of Interests, and a Relation of Circumstances, their Cases have something synonymous in them, but a *Whig*, and a *Jacobite*, a moderate *Churchman*, and a *French* *Papist*, or a *Dissenter*, and a *High-Flyer*; these are such Opposites, such diametrical Contraries, there is such a Distance of Principles, such an Aversion in Natures, and they steer such different Ways, that it is impossible to bring these in, I mean into any thing general in the Behalf of a *French* or *Jacobite* Interest, and therefore I durst wager before hand, and venture the whole Cause upon it; if there are any Tools, any Emisaries, any Traytors among you, they are all on your own side Gentlemen *High Flyers*, and let the Event determine it.

MISCELLANEA.

THis very Discourse of People turning false to their Principles, and betray the Cause they pretend to espouse—Brings me directly again to the Author of our *New Observer*—I would gladly have done with so ungrateful a Subject, but he forces me to it, by running farther on in his Paper of *Saturday* last, in affronting the Memory of King *William*, and who can refrain himself from speaking.

Wickedness always justifies it self by increasing the Crime; this Author receiving a just Correction for his reproaching the Memory of the King, has most vilely defended himself by running on in further abusing that most excellent Prince, his Breach of good Manners, which his Guilt forces him to him at as to me, I have nothing to say to, but this, that his Cause drives him to the Necessity of it, he has undertaken to defame and abuse our Deliverer, and the best King that ever *Europe* saw, and having called the Master of the House *Belzebub*, how much more should I expect, he should call those of his Household.

—First, He charged the King with not caring to be advised in Matters of War or Government—And pray, Gentlemen, you that are Friends to the Memory of that Glorious Ransomer of Nations, and cannot but be offended at this Insult of his Name, take Comfort in this; among all his Sulphur and Railery he has forgot so much as to prove one Syllable—So he tacitely owns that to be a Slander, and has now redoubled the Crime by Way of excusing it.

And First he tells you—The King might have done more for his Country:

Secondly, He was naturally of a stiff Temper both to his own Prejudice and ours to—And,

Thirdly, Which is still worse, He could prove this, but forbears out of Respect to the King. Ob. N°. 90. Col. 4.

He that can be silent under all this, can have very little Regard to the Memory of him, on whose Glorious Undertaking all our present Prosperity is, next to GOD's Goodness, immediately founded.

To